

2018 EAC Clearie Award Application

Outstanding Innovations Competition

Winning **Voters** in Weber



Submitted by:

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About Weber County Elections

For the Weber County Elections Division, #WinninginWeber isn't just a clever tag, it represents innovative plans, a commitment to serving the public, and; a yield of new voters.

Weber County, with a growing population is the fourth largest county and contains the second largest city in Utah. The urban core is surrounded by suburban and rural communities. Weber Elections reaches potential voters of diverse age groups and life experiences by delivering information and programs where people live, work, study and recreate. With a full-time elections staff of just three people and 116,000 registered voters, Weber Elections increases their impact by collaborating with organizations that have established relationships with segments of Weber citizens. Not content with only executing great election practices during the voting period, Weber Elections reaches out to the community throughout the year engaging: students, veterans, teens, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and even children in the electoral process.

Engaging with University Student Resources

Weber State University (WSU) and Weber County Elections are working together to improve elections and engage students in election projects. Over 100 WSU courses require completing projects with community partners each semester. Students who complete 300+ hours of community engagement and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA receive a designation of "Excellence in Service" on their diploma. Weber Elections extends their budget and staff resources by offering opportunities for students to engage in sophisticated projects that improve election practices and provide real world experience. In addition to traditional sources of involvement like student interns who become additional staff members at little or no cost to the county, Weber Elections has classes working on technical projects that would otherwise have to be purchased by tax payer dollars. Two WSU technology classes have on-going election projects. A computer science class created an inventory system that allows Weber Elections to track their equipment as it goes out to polling places and is returned back to the office after Election Day. This not only allows the county to keep track of where equipment is and ensure that it is all returned, but also facilitates easier compliance with State audit requirements. Students interviewed county staff to determine the needs of such a system. At the conclusion of each semester, a status report is issued to Weber Elections and subsequent classes work on enhancements to the system. Another computer science class is currently developing a mobile app for voters to access from their Smart phones. This gives voters more accessible information about their ballot, polling places, candidates, etc. While this is a worthwhile expenditure, it has never been a pressing budgetary item. WSU eagerly proposed the idea and has taken it on as a class project.

Many disciplines are involved in partnering with the Elections Office. In the past, the university has conducted focus groups to facilitate the switch to vote by mail. A political methods class conducts an annual voter satisfaction survey of registered voters. A technical writing class worked as copy editors to improve poll worker training manuals and develop quick reference guides for use at polling locations. Foreign language classes have also

developed tools for use with the growing Spanish speaking population and are translating voter registration materials to be used in conjunction with citizenship classes and voter outreach projects that they (the students) are developing. All of these projects are in addition to the traditional ways in which students are volunteering as interns and as extra staff processing returned by mail ballots during election time. In one year's time, the University tracked over 1,000+ hours that students spent working on Weber Elections projects and in the office.

Weber Elections also support registration and voting by university students. They sponsored a voting logo contest, registration drives, a block party and a Rock the Vote concert for students and community members. Weber Elections is working hard to light a passion for voting among young adults. (See pages 10-12 for additional pictures).



Weber Election Staff at WSU

L to R

**Ryan Cowley, Stu Jensen,
Shelly Jackson & Daniel Wade**

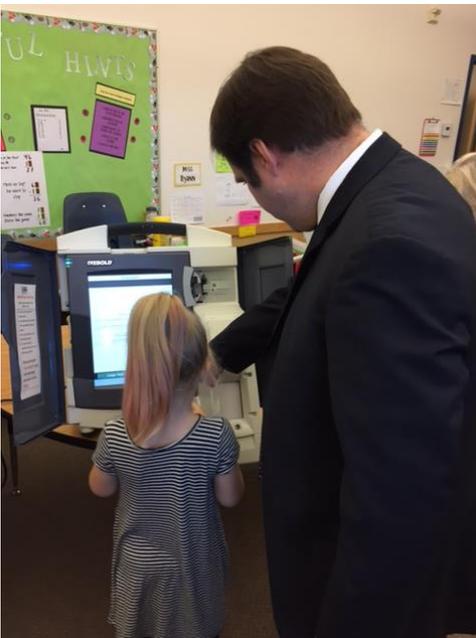
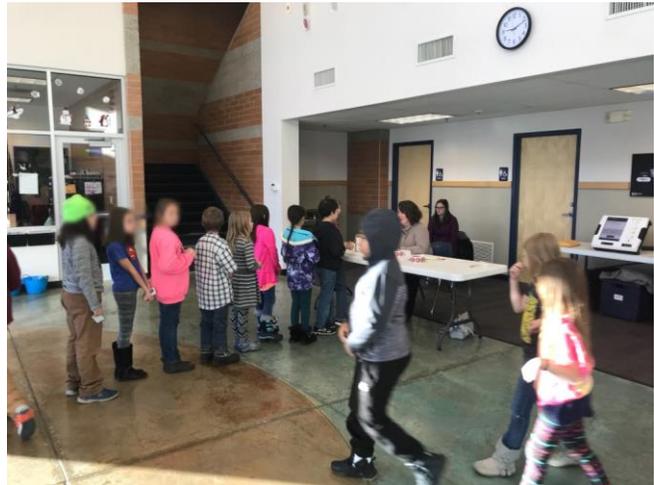
Runners and the Political Race

Every year, the Ogden Marathon & Half Marathon, a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon, attracts 7,000 runners from Utah and beyond. During the past two years, at mile 14 (mile 1 for the half marathon runners) at the top of the course's toughest hill, Weber County Elections sponsors a water/aid station. Race coordinators encourage each ambassador group to develop a theme for their aid station. Naturally, Weber Elections used political themes. As runners climbed the hill, they passed signs, printed by Weber, with political leaders urging them on (see examples on page 13) An image of Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk, was even featured as a stand-in for Richard Simmons and posted on the trash can at the aid station. Election employees got their own families involved as well, with one young man standing for hours dressed as Uncle Sam to hand out licorice and cheer the runners on. Runners and the public alike, found this a memorable reminder to vote in the upcoming election.



Youth Elections

Weber Elections provided civics lessons and administered the election process for students at local public and private schools. At Davinci Academy, students participated in a full scope of election activities. Students registered and were issued voter registration cards. Student volunteers acted as stand-ins for candidates that would appear on the ballot. Debates were held. Then students used the county's voting equipment to cast a ballot. The results were then tabulated. In a wrap-up activity, students in this Kindergarten – 12th grade school, learned about the results. They were able to compare election outcomes between grades and also contrast the school's results with the real outcomes of how their parents and other adults voted in the county. Leah Murray, Political Science Professor, at WSU worked with Weber Elections to provide students this experience. In an update sent this week, Dr. Murray stated, "DaVinci Academy Elementary School has allowed its student body to make decisions about its playground and about the day to day governance of the school. They elected to do this as a representative government and they ran the elections with real voting machines provided by Weber County Elections. Just last week, I was a poll worker at the student government election and a seven year old girl said to the Weber County Elections Manager "is this a real voting machine?" and Jessica Hastings answered "yes it is." That little girl has voted. She will vote again when she is 18. Because of Weber County Elections these children are able to see how representative democracy works. They will not be scared."



Weber Elections also coordinated the elections for student government at a local public high school. These activities helped the teens become familiar with voting at a polling place including: checking in, using the electronic voting equipment and casting a ballot.



Student Elections with legitimate voting practices and equipment.

Next Generation Voters

Weber County, due to a recent bond, has invested in building and upgrading libraries across the county. Because Weber County votes primarily by mail, all Election Day Vote Centers are located at these state of the art accessible libraries. In addition to using libraries for election purposes, the Weber Election team supports children's education and reading programs by leading story hour reading and discussion. Through the use of a familiar story they teach children about candidates, researching issues and voting. The lessons begin with the Weber County Clerk reading the classic version of "The Three Little Pigs" written from the perspective of the pig. Next, a second Weber staff member reads "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs" written from the perspective of the wolf. Children are then invited to complete a ballot and cast their vote about which character's version they believed and who they felt would be a better leader, the pig or the wolf.



Young library visitors hear two versions of the classic “Three Little Pigs” story, then vote.



Vote in Honor of a Veteran

Launched at the George H. Wahlen Veterans Home, Weber Elections is the first county in Utah to sponsor the Vote in Honor of a Veteran Program. Voters are invited to declare their intent to vote in honor of a veteran by sending a description and picture of the veteran they respect. The voter recognizing the veteran then receives a pin and Weber Elections posts information about the veteran on their social media sites.

Weber County Elections

Vote in Honor of America's Veterans

Voter Information

Voter's Name: _____

Voter's Address: _____

Voter's email: _____

Veteran Information

Veteran's Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Home Town: _____



Vote in Honor of a Veteran kick-off at the George H Wahlen Veterans Home

Weber County Elections
 May 21 · 🌐

Veteran(s): Blaine Wade & Robert Wade
 Branch of Service: US Navy
 Nominator: Daniel Wade

I vote in honor of my father and uncle who served in the Navy during WWII aboard aircraft carriers in the South Pacific. #MilitaryMonday #winninginweber #honoravet



Weber County Elections
 April 30 · 🌐

Veteran: Raymond Strong
 Branch of Service: Air Force
 Nominator: Lynn Taylor

My uncle, Ray Strong, was a fighter pilot and squadron commander in the Korean War era. He inspired me to serve and pinned my wings on me. #MilitaryMonday #winninginweber #honoravet



Weber County Elections
 April 23 · 🌐

Veterans: Joe Chamberlin & Nathan White
 Branch of Service: Army & Navy
 Nominator: Camille Chamberlin

Joe is a great example of a true American. He joined the military at 17 to selflessly serve his country and follow in his brother, father and grandfather's example.

Nathan White (pictured) gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. He is a great example to his family, friends and loved ones.



Weber County Elections
 May 14 · 🌐

Veteran: Geoffrey Miller
 Branch of Service: US Navy
 Nominator: Kathleen Miller

My son, Geoff Miller, is a 6-year Navy veteran. Geoff served his country as an Electrician's Mate on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.... See More



Diversity at the Polling Place

In an effort to have election workers that mirror the diversity of the community, Weber Elections has reached out to groups who serve ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Organizations reached that serve individuals with disabilities include: Disability Law Center, Roads to Independence, Vocational Rehabilitation, Deseret Industries, and disability resource centers at the technical college and university. The county also worked with Isabel Asensio, Professor of Spanish at Weber State. Several of her students attended poll worker training and worked the 2016 general election. Weber staff also reached out to several Latino Community groups, hosting a meeting where representatives from 5 agencies attended. Staff taught them how to do voter registration drives and asked them to recruit bilingual poll workers. Beyond seeking poll workers of diverse backgrounds, Weber engages in planning for a voting experience that meets the needs of all voters. The election team seeks out advocates, inviting them to review the county's plans ahead of the election and listens to their feedback and concerns. Then Weber makes needed adjustments to their materials, poll worker training and the physical layout at election centers.

Equipment and Ballot Processing Demonstrations

Shortly after switching to by mail elections, Weber Elections began opening its office for public open house events during election season. Groups are escorted through the office by staff members during live ballot processing. Voters always leave with a sense of confidence that the process is secure and fair.

Weber Elections also hosted public demonstrations of several election equipment vendors that were being explored leading up to the statewide contract for new equipment. These demonstrations took place at a high school and at the Republican and Democratic Party conventions. The public was invited to view the equipment and a local newspaper covered the events. Since selection of a statewide system, Weber County has demonstrated the equipment at schools and at the State Capitol Rotunda during the legislative session.

Conclusion

Weber County Election's accomplishments in the area of reaching out to voters and future voters is distinguished and deserves recognition. Were it the Election team's only area of accomplishment, it would be notable. However, these efforts are only a portion of the #WinningInWeber picture. Ricky Hatch, the Weber County Clerk and the election team under the supervision of Ryan Cowley have extensive knowledge in election security, speak on behalf of voters with legislative members, provide technical support and best practice advice to election officials in other counties, and; foster positive collaborative relationships with advocates who represent minority populations. Please hold these practices aloft by selecting Weber County Elections for a 2018 Clearie Award.

Pictures - Collaborations with Weber State



L- Weber State voter outreach slogan winner Tasha McClellan with Weber County Clerk, Ricky Hatch. Tasha won a basketball autographed by NBA All-Star and WSU alumni, Damian Lillard.

R- Weber Elections bringing voter registration and election information to WSU students.



Above: Registration Form drop-off at WSU

L- Customized voter outreach sign on display at Weber State University in advance of the June Primary Election.

Weber Block Party Pictures & Signs





Sign designs used for Ogden City Marathon Outreach

There's nothing to fear...
but DEHYDRATION! -- FDR



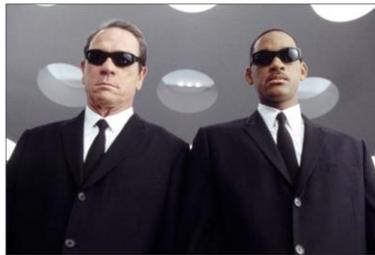
Weber Elections

Feel the Bern!



Weber Elections

We're from the government,
and we're here to help.



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Don't resign,
keep running!

-- Richard Nixon



Weber Elections

Read my lips,
no new
dehydration.

--George W. Bush



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The finish line
is ahead...that's
no lie --Honest Abe



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Don't be like Bill...
INHALE! Oxygen, that is



Weber Elections

Uncle Sam wants you...to
finish the race!



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